

Senate File 2041 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2041

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the physical education participation
2 requirement for high school students under the educational
3 standards.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2020, is amended by adding the following
3 new subparagraph division:

4 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH DIVISION. (c) Show choir, if the student's
5 participation per week in show choir is at least equivalent
6 to the per-week participation required for one-eighth unit of
7 physical education.

8 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
9 subparagraph (2), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

10 (2) Students in grades nine through eleven may be excused
11 from the physical education requirement in order to enroll
12 in academic courses not otherwise available to the student
13 if the board of directors of the school district in which
14 the school is located, or the authorities in charge of the
15 school, if the school is a nonpublic school, determine that
16 students from the school may be permitted to be excused
17 from the physical education requirement. A student may be
18 excused by the principal of the school in which the student
19 is enrolled, in consultation with the student's counselor,
20 for up to one semester, trimester, or the equivalent of a
21 semester or trimester, per year if the parent or guardian of
22 the student requests in writing that the student be excused
23 from the physical education requirement. The student seeking
24 to be excused from the physical education requirement must,
25 at some time during the period for which the excuse is
26 sought, be a participant in show choir, or in an organized and
27 supervised athletic program, which requires at least as much
28 time of participation per week as one-eighth unit of physical
29 education.

30 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 6, paragraph b,
31 subparagraph (2), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

32 (2) All physically able students in grades six through
33 twelve shall be required to engage in a physical activity for
34 a minimum of one hundred twenty minutes per week. A student
35 participating in an organized and supervised athletic program,

1 show choir, or non-school-sponsored extracurricular activity
2 which requires the student to participate in physical activity
3 for a minimum of one hundred twenty minutes per week is exempt
4 from the requirements of this subparagraph.

5 EXPLANATION

6 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This bill permits a high school principal to excuse a
9 high school student from the physical education requirements
10 under the educational standards of Code section 256.11 if
11 the student is participating in show choir for at least the
12 equivalent amount of time as is required for one-eighth unit
13 of physical education. The bill also exempts from physical
14 activity requirements middle school and high school students
15 who participate in show choir.

16 For a student in grades 9 through 11, the student must be
17 seeking the excuse in order to enroll in academic courses not
18 otherwise available to the student, the principal must consult
19 with the student's counselor, and the student can only be
20 excused for one semester, or the equivalent, per school year.

21 For a student in grade 12, the student may be excused for two
22 semesters or the equivalent.